

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for use in preparing a biological specimen sample, comprising:

a biological specimen filter for collecting a portion of the biological specimen sample to be examined;

a ~~container~~ tray defining an aperture for holding the filter; and

a data storage device attached to or positioned within the ~~tray~~container, wherein data related to the filter is stored in the data storage device.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, comprising a plurality of biological specimen filters for collecting portions of respective biological specimen samples to be examined, the ~~tray~~ defining a plurality of apertures for holding respective ~~container holding the plurality of filters~~, and the data storage device storing data related to the plurality of filters.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the filter being configured to collect cells of a biological specimen sample contained in a liquid or a solution.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, the data storage device comprising a read only memory.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, the data storage device comprising a read/write memory.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the tray further container defining a recess, the data storage device being positioned in the recess.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, the recess being generally symmetrical.
10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, a width or height of the recess being tapered.
11. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the stored data indicating a test or a combination of tests that is compatible with the filter.
12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, the stored data indicating a specimen that is compatible with the filter.
13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, the stored data indicating whether the filter has expired.
14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the stored data indicating a number of processing steps involving the filter ~~or the specimen~~.
15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the stored data indicating one or more parameters of processing steps involving the filter ~~or the specimen~~.
16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, the stored data comprising a unique registration number of the data storage device.
17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the filter comprising a cytological filter for collecting and examining collected cells of the biological specimen sample.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for preparing a biological specimen sample, comprising:
 a biological specimen filter for collecting a portion of the biological specimen sample to be examined;
 a ~~container~~ tray defining an aperture for holding the filter;
 a data storage device attached to or positioned within the ~~tray~~container;
 a processor; and
 a communications interface coupled to each of the data storage device and the processor,
 wherein data related to the filter is stored in the data storage device and can be retrieved there
 from by the processor through the communications interface.
19. (Currently) The system of claim 18, comprising a plurality of filters, the tray defining a plurality of apertures for ~~container~~ holding respective ~~the plurality of~~ filters, and the data storage device storing data related to the plurality of filters.
20. (Canceled).
21. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 18, the filter being configured to collect cells of the biological sample contained in a liquid or a solution.
22. (Original) The system of claim 18, the data storage device comprising a read only memory.
23. (Original) The system of claim 18, the data storage device comprising a read/write memory.
24. (Canceled).
25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, the tray further ~~container~~ defining a recess, the data storage device being positioned in the recess.
26. (Original) The system of claim 25, the recess being generally symmetrical.

27. (Original) The system of claim 25, a width or a height of the recess being tapered.
28. (Original) The system of claim 27, the tapered recess being configured to receive the communications interface.
29. (Currently) The system of claim 18, the processor having a housing, wherein the tray is positionable inside of container ~~is positioned in the~~ processor housing.
30. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 18, the stored data indicating a test or a combination of tests that is compatible with the filter.
31. (Original) The system of claim 18, the stored data indicating a specimen that is compatible with the filter.
32. (Original) The system of claim 18, the stored data indicating whether the filter has expired.
33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, the stored data indicating a number of processing steps involving the filter ~~or the specimen~~.
34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, the stored data indicating one or more parameters of processing steps involving the filter ~~or the specimen~~.
35. (Original) The system of claim 18, the stored data comprising a unique registration number of the data storage device.
36. (Original) The system of claim 18, the communications interface comprising a serial data interface.
37. (Original) The system of claim 18, the communications interface comprising a mechanical interface.

38. (Original) The system of claim 18, the communications interface comprising a wireless interface.

39. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 18, further comprising a vial for holding the biological specimen sample, wherein the vial and the filter each includes a respective code.

40. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 39, further comprising a plurality of interfaces, respective interfaces being configured to read respective codes of the vial and the filter into the processor.

41. (Original) The system of claim 40, the respective codes comprising barcodes.

42. (Original) The system of claim 40, the respective interfaces comprising electro-optical interfaces.

43. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, the filter comprising a cytological filter for collecting and examining collected cells of the biological specimen sample.

44-56. (Canceled).

57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, the filter having a cylindrical shape.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, the filter having a cylindrical shape.